

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN RALPH REGULA

SPEECH OF

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it was my distinct honor and privilege to have served in the House of Representatives with Ralph Regula, who passed away on Wednesday, July 19, 2017.

In 2007, I became a member of the Committee on Appropriations where Ralph had served for many years. He was Chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior and later as Chairman of the Labor and Health & Human Services Subcommittee. Ralph taught me a lot about how to achieve success in the Committee by working together cooperatively with Republicans and Democrats alike.

Ralph was the Dean of the Ohio Delegation and I often heard him tell the story of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. The Park was established in 1974 with Ralph's leadership and his partners John Seiberling and Charles Vanik. I particularly recall his story of how the law was signed. Ralph understood that Secretary of the Interior Rogers Morton opposed the Park and was recommending that President Gerald Ford veto the bill. Ralph called former National Republican Committee Chairman Ray Bliss of Akron and asked him to call the President to explain the importance of the Park in Ohio and to point out that the Park could be a political issue in the Presidential campaign. President Ford saw the wisdom in the advice and signed the bill into law.

Ralph was born on December 3, 1924 in Beach City, Ohio. Ralph served in the Navy during World War II and graduated in 1948 from what is now known as the University of Mount Union in Alliance, Ohio. Originally, a teacher and principal who attended law school at night, Ralph served in the Ohio House and Senate before his election to an open Congressional seat in 1972. Ralph was married to his wife Mary for 66 years, and together they shared three adoring children.

Ralph was an important voice in protecting important education programs including Pell Grants and health care programs including investment in medical research. Ralph helped to establish the Ohio & Erie Canalway, which include towpaths and historic sites. He also secured funding to help establish the National First Ladies' Library, which was founded by his wife Mary and located in Canton, Ohio.

Many friends and family members of the Congressman will be gathering to ride the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail from Cleveland to Zoar this Friday. Ralph's son Richard Regula will be leading this fitting commemoration in celebration of Congressman Regula's legacy.

Ralph was always a champion of bipartisanship, oftentimes stating, "Listening to the points of view of others, finding common

ground to cooperate and making friends on the 'other side of the aisle' helps to achieve ultimate success."

I extend my deepest condolences to Ralph's family and friends. He was a true patriot who leaves behind a positive legacy in both Washington and Ohio. He will be deeply missed.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER WELCH

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3219) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2018, and for other purposes:

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Chair, in communities across the country, our infrastructure is falling apart. This fact was highlighted once again when the American Society of Civil Engineers released its 2017 Infrastructure Report Card which gave our nation's infrastructure a D+ rating. That is not acceptable and we must do better.

One area of particular concern is the state of our nation's dams. In far too many communities, dams are in danger of breaching. As we recently saw at the Oroville Dam in California, dam breaches can cause catastrophic consequences to the surrounding communities.

Last year, Congress took a positive step to address this issue with the passage of the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation (WIIN) Act. In particular, Section 1177 of the WIIN Act authorized funding for the Army Corps of Engineers to begin working to rehab some of our nation's oldest, Corps-constructed dams that are classified as "high hazard potential". As many of you know, the failure of a dam that is classified as high-hazard potential is anticipated to cause loss of life.

While Section 1177 is a positive start, it needs to be funded so the Corps can get to work. My amendment would simply direct the Army Corps to use existing funds within its Construction Account to implement this provision up to its authorized level of \$10 million.

Both parties agree we need to improve our infrastructure. This is a modest proposal to address some of the most outdated, hazardous dams in the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

MINE RESISTANT AMBUSH PROTECTED (MRAP) VEHICLE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 27, 2017

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following statement on behalf of my constituent, Mr. Steve Chill, on the Marine Corps Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle.

BLOWING THE WHISTLE ON A WHISTLEBLOWER:
THE REAL MRAP STORY

(By Steve Chill)

There is a perception that the Marine Corps was negligent in providing armored vehicle support for the warfighters in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). This purported negligence was centered on the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicle effort, but negligence accusations extended to other equipment. These perceptions about Marine Corps negligence surrounding the MRAP efforts reflect ignorance of the facts. The negligence story was largely fabricated by a whistleblower and drew the interest of the press. The perceptions were also drawn from a DODIG report, the conclusions of which are based on incomplete information, and a Marine Corps that failed to adequately explain the truth with supporting evidence.

The study "Blowing the Whistle on a Whistleblower: The Real MRAP Story" is a refutation of previous works dealing with the aforementioned MRAP accusations. This study explains what occurred and provides the evidence necessary (including hundreds of emails) to disprove the allegations of negligence. The author was in a unique position to observe the events incorrectly described. This study corrects the record about the Marine Corps' fabricated negligence. It also provides a means to understand the real lessons on support to operations in Iraq.

There are two series of events associated with MRAP: the Marine Corps effort providing armored vehicles and the portrayal of this effort.

Providing armored vehicles: The term "Hejlik UUNS" will be used for the Feb 2005 I MEF MRAP Urgent Universal Needs Statement (UUNS). "An UUNS is an immediate request from units that are deployed to or are awaiting imminent deployment to a combat theater. The UUNS is a request for a capability that, if not filled, places the accomplishment of the unit's mission in jeopardy or unduly increases the risk of casualties" (MARADMIN 045/06). The Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) decided to provide m1114 (armored HMMWVs or Humvees) as the material solution covering the Hejlik UUNS. The Executives of the Marine Corps were involved in this decision. The Hejlik UUNS was reduced to an UNS (Universal Needs Statement-not Urgent), removing it from further executive consideration and from the itinerary of the dozens of flag officer commands that were responsible for it. No Marine Corps command continued pursuing the UUNS. There was an absence of action (due to an absence of demand) between the removal of MRAP from consideration in August of 2005 until May of 2006 when I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) (in Iraq)

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